

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
BEAUMONT DIVISION

|                     |   |                              |
|---------------------|---|------------------------------|
| MELANIE S. KNIGHTEN | § |                              |
| VS.                 | § | CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:20-CV-412 |
| DIRECTOR, TDCJ-CID  | § |                              |

## MEMORANDUM OPINION REGARDING TRANSFER

Petitioner Melanie S. Knighten, an inmate confined at the Woodman State Jail, proceeding *pro se*, brings this petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254.

The above-styled action was referred to the undersigned magistrate judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636 for findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations for the disposition of the case.

## Discussion


Title 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a) allows a district court to “entertain an application for a writ of habeas corpus in behalf of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court only on the ground that he is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States.” 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a). A state prisoner is required to file his federal petition for writ of habeas corpus in either the district where the prisoner is incarcerated or the district where the prisoner was convicted and sentenced. 28 U.S.C. § 2241(d). Although both district courts have jurisdiction to entertain the application, “[t]he district court for the district wherein such an application is filed in the exercise of its discretion and in furtherance of justice may transfer the application to the other district court for hearing and determination.” *Id.*

Petitioner filed this petition in the Beaumont Division of the Eastern District of Texas. However, petitioner was convicted and sentenced in Bowie County, which is located in the Texarkana Division.

The court has considered the circumstances and has determined that the interests of justice would be served by transferring this petition to the division where petitioner was convicted and sentenced. Therefore, the petition should be transferred to the Texarkana Division for hearing and determination. It is accordingly

**ORDERED** that this petition is **TRANSFERRED** to the Texarkana Division of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas.

**SIGNED this the 2nd day of November, 2020.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith F. GIBLIN", written over a horizontal line.

KEITH F. GIBLIN  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE